laws of India and provide that the licensee shall adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Codes, DTH licensee is also required to maintain recording of Programmes and Advertisements for the period of 90 days as per the provisions laid down in the Guidlines.

Community Radio Project

401. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the community radio project launched with much fanfare last year has failed to take off;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 50 institutions had applied for licenses and his Ministry after processing the applications, had recommended cases to the Department of Telecommunications for frequencies but till date, only one institute Anna University of Chennai has a low range radio station installed on its campus;

(c) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in installation of fequency stations; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?,

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This Ministry has received 60 applications for licenses 26 Letters of Intent have been issued to the institutions whose applications have been cleared, of which, 13 institutions have signed License Agreement with this Ministry. Only one institution Anna University, Chennai has been granted SACFA clearance and Wireless Operating License by Ministry of Communication and the country's first Community Radio Station started functioning since 1st February 2004 at Anna University, Chennai. Rest of the 12 institutions are unable to commission the service as SACFA clearance and Wireless Operating license are pending with the Ministry of Communications.

(c) and (d) Initially this Ministry had to seek clearances from Ministries of Human Resource Development, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Defence and availability of frequency from Ministry of Communications. After seeking approval of the Cabinet, clearances from Ministry of External Affairs and Defence have been done away with except in sensitive areas. Home Ministry has been requested to define a suitable time frame for

such clearances. Efforts are also being made to expedite the SAQFA clearance and issue of Wireless Operating License by Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which is taking considerable time at present.

DTH Services of AIR

402. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct to Home (DTH) service of All India Radio is likely to be launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of channels on which the programme would be broadcast;

(d) whether it is also fact that several services of All India Radio are being closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Test transmission of DD's Ku band project, which includes 30 TV Channels and 12 AIR Channels, has already commenced. Ku band signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The signals can be received with the help of Ku band receive system.

(c) 12 channels of All India Radio are included in the Ku band bouquet of Prasar Bharati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Radio Stations in Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu

403. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a 10 KW capacity radio station with a range of about 65 km was set up in Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu with a cost of Rs 4 crore but till date it has not started functioning due to shortage of essential staff;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to manning this radio station and commissioning it;